

The Honorable Robert S. Lasnik

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

PAIGE A. THOMPSON,

Defendant.

NO. CR19-159 RSL

**UNITED STATES' PROPOSED
FORFEITURE JURY INSTRUCTIONS
(CITED)**

The United States, by and through its undersigned counsel, submits these
Proposed Forfeiture Jury Instructions for use, as necessary, in the forfeiture phase of trial
conducted pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1).

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1 DATED this 24th day of May, 2022.

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3 Respectfully submitted,

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1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 1

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3 Jurors: Now that you have found that Defendant Paige A. Thompson committed

4 the offense of *Computer Fraud and Abuse*, as charged in Counts 2 and 4-8 of the

5 Indictment, and *Access Device Fraud*, as charged in Count 9 of the Indictment, you have

6 one more task to perform before you are discharged.

7 Under federal law, any person who is convicted of *Computer Fraud and Abuse*

8 shall forfeit, to the United States, any property used, or intended to be used, to commit or

9 to facilitate the offense.

10 Under federal law, any person who is convicted of *Access Device Fraud* shall

11 forfeit, to the United States, any property used, or intended to be used, to commit the

12 offense.

13 Certain property may be connected to more than one offense, and thus, be subject

14 to forfeiture as to each of those offenses. You should make a determination as to each

15 item of property and each offense.

16 With respect to Counts 2 and 4-9, the United States has alleged that two electronic

17 devices seized from Defendant Thompson were used, or intended to be used, to commit

18 or to facilitate these offenses, and are, therefore, subject to forfeiture in this case. These

19 items are:

- 20 a. Dell Laptop S/N: JKQKJM2 with power cord; and
- 21 b. White Desktop Computer Custom Built.

22 You must now find whether these electronic devices are, in fact, forfeitable and

23 return a special verdict reflecting your findings.

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25 18 U.S.C. § 1030(i) ("The Court, in imposing sentence on any person convicted of a

26 violation of this section, or convicted of conspiracy to violate this section, shall order, in

27 addition to any other sentence imposed and irrespective of any provision of State law,

28 that such person forfeit to the United States – (A) such person's interest in any personal

1 property that was used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate the commission of
2 such violation . . .”)

3 18 U.S.C. § 1029(c)(1)(C) (“Generally. – The punishment for an offense under
4 subsection (a) of this section is [includes] forfeiture to the United States of any personal
5 property used or intended to be used to commit the offense.”)

6 Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1)(A) (“As soon as practical after a verdict or finding of guilty
7 . . . on any count in an indictment . . . regarding which criminal forfeiture is sought, the
8 court [or jury] shall determine what property is subject to forfeiture under the applicable
9 statute.”).

1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 2
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3 The burden of proof is different at the forfeiture phase of trial. Whereas the
4 United States had the burden of proving Defendant Paige A. Thompson's guilt "beyond a
5 reasonable doubt," the United States need only prove the identified items are forfeitable
6 "by a preponderance of the evidence." This is a much lower burden.

7 When a party has the burden of proving any claim by a preponderance of the
8 evidence, it means you must be persuaded by the evidence that the claim is more
9 probably true than not.

10 You should base your decision on all of the evidence, regardless of which party
11 presented it.
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23 Ninth Circuit Model Civil Jury Instruction – 1.6 (2017 Edition, last updated March
24 2022); *United States v. Garcia-Guizar*, 160 F. 3d 511, 523 (9th Cir. 1998) ("criminal
25 forfeiture need only be proved by a preponderance of the evidence") (citing *United States*
26 *v. Hernandez-Escarsega*, 886 F.2d 1560, 1576-77 (9th Cir. 1989)); *United States v.*
27 *Shryock*, 342 F.3d 948, 991 (9th Cir. 2003) (the Supreme Court's holding in *Apprendi*
28 "does not disturb the rule that statutorily-prescribed forfeiture is constitutional when
supported by the preponderance of the evidence").

1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 3
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3 While deliberating on forfeiture, you may consider any evidence, including
4 testimony, offered by the parties at any time during the trial.
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19 Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1)(B) ("The court's [or jury's] [forfeiture] determination may be
20 based on evidence already in the record ... and on any additional evidence or information
21 submitted by the parties and accepted by the court as relevant and reliable."); *United*
22 *States v. Newman*, 659 F.3d 1235, 1244-45 (9th Cir. 2011) (recognizing Rule
23 32.2(b)(1)(B) allows the court, when making a forfeiture determination, to rely on
24 evidence already in the record, including any admissions in written plea agreement);
25 *United States v. Bornfield*, 145 F.3d 1123, 1134-36 (10th Cir. 1998), *cert. denied*, 538
26 U.S. 1139 (2000) (implicitly approving instruction that the jury, when deciding forfeiture,
27 could "consider any evidence offered by the parties before [its] previous deliberations"
28 on the substantive criminal charges).

1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 4
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3 When considering the evidence for forfeiture, the instructions you previously
4 received regarding what is evidence, direct and circumstantial evidence, the credibility of
5 witnesses, and reaching a unanimous verdict continue to apply.
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26 Ninth Circuit Model Criminal Jury Instructions -1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 3.7 & 7.1 (2022
27 Edition, last updated December 2021).
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1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 5
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3 You have already found that Defendant Paige A. Thompson committed the offense
4 of Computer Fraud and Abuse, as charged in Counts 2 and 4-8 of the Indictment, and
5 Access Device Fraud, as charged in Count 9 of the Indictment. When deliberating on
6 forfeiture, you are bound by these previous findings and must not reconsider or revise
7 these findings.
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22 *United States v. Bornfield*, 145 F.3d 1123, 1138 n.12 (10th Cir. 1998), *cert. denied*, 538
23 U.S. 1139 (2000) (because forfeiture is imposed following conviction, as part of the
24 sentence, it “does not affect ... [a Defendant’s] substantive conviction”); *United States v.*
25 *Cauble*, 706 F.2d 1322, 1348 (5th Cir. 1983) (bifurcating forfeiture in a second phase of a
26 trial “prevents the potential penalty of forfeiture from influencing the jurors’
27 deliberations about guilt or innocence”).
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1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 6
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3 When deliberating on forfeiture, you should not consider what might happen to the
4 electronic devices if they are forfeited. The ultimate disposition of forfeited property is a
5 matter for the Court to decide. Nor should you consider, when deliberating, whether
6 anyone other than Defendant Paige A. Thompson may have an interest in the electronic
7 devices. Any third-party interests will be addressed by the Court in a separate
8 proceeding.
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26 Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c) (the court enters a final order of forfeiture after any third-party
27 claims are adjudicated in post-sentencing ancillary proceedings).
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1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 7
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3 You have found Defendant Paige A. Thompson committed the offense of
4 Computer Fraud and Abuse, as charged in Counts 2 and 4–8 of the Indictment. Pursuant
5 to Section 1030(i) of Title 18 of the United States Code, any property used, or intended to
6 be used, to commit or to facilitate the offense of Computer Fraud and Abuse, is subject to
7 forfeiture to the United States.

8 To reach a verdict on forfeiture, with respect to Counts 2 and 4-8, you must
9 determine whether the electronic devices were used, or intended to be used, to commit or
10 to facilitate Defendant Paige A. Thompson's commission of the offense of Computer
11 Fraud and Abuse.

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23 18 U.S.C. § 1030(i) ("The Court, in imposing sentence on any person convicted of a
24 violation of this section, or convicted of conspiracy to violate this section, shall order, in
25 addition to any other sentence imposed and irrespective of any provision of State law,
26 that such person forfeit to the United States – (A) such person's interest in any personal
27 property that was used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate the commission of
28 such violation . . .").

1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 8
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3 You have found Defendant Paige A. Thompson committed the offense of Access
4 Device Fraud, as charged in Count 9 of the Indictment. Pursuant to Section
5 1029(c)(1)(C) of Title 18 of the United States Code, any property used, or intended to be
6 used, to commit the offense of Access Device Fraud is subject to forfeiture to the United
7 States.

8 To reach a verdict on forfeiture, with respect to Count 9, you must determine
9 whether the electronic devices and other identified items were used, or intended to be
10 used, to commit Defendant Paige A. Thompson's commission of the offense of Access
11 Device Fraud.

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22 18 U.S.C. § 1029(c)(1)(C) ("Generally. – The punishment for an offense under
23 subsection (a) of this section is [includes] forfeiture to the United States of any personal
24 property used or intended to be used to commit the offense.")
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1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 9
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3 Property "facilitates" a criminal offense if it makes that offense easier to commit
4 or more difficult to detect. To be forfeitable, there must be a substantial connection
5 between the facilitating property and the illegal activity. The facilitating property need
6 not be indispensable to the commission of the offense, but there must be more than an
7 incidental or fortuitous connection between that property and the illegal activity.
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22 *United States v. Wyly*, 193 F.3d 289, 302 (5th Cir. 1999) ("Facilitation occurs when the
23 property makes the prohibited conduct less difficult or more or less free from obstruction
24 or hindrance.") (citing *United States v. Tencer*, 107 F.3d 1120, 1134 (5th Cir. 1997));
25 *United States v. All Monies (\$477,048.62) in Account No. 90-3617-3*, 754 F. Supp. 1467,
26 1473 (D. Hawai'i 1991) (a "substantial connection" exists when there is "more than an
27 incidental or fortuitous connection between the property and the illegal activity, but the
28 property need not be indispensable to the commission of the offense") (citing *United*
States v. Schifferli, 895 F.2d 987, 989-90 (4th Cir. 1990) and *United States v. 3639-2nd*
St., N.E., 869 F.2d 1093, 1096 (8th Cir. 1989)).

1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 10
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3 A Special Verdict Form for Forfeiture has been prepared for you to record your
4 forfeiture verdict. You may record your verdict by putting an "X" or check mark in the
5 space provided next to the words "YES" or "NO." The foreperson must then sign and
6 date the form.

7 Items of property may be subject to forfeiture on multiple grounds. You need not
8 be concerned with "overlapping" of properties.
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26 Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(5)(B) (when the jury determines forfeiture, the government must
27 submit a Special Verdict Form for that purpose).
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1 UNITED STATES' PROPOSED FORFEITURE INSTRUCTION NO. 11

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3 You must reach a unanimous verdict as to each question on the special verdict
4 form. Everyone must agree to any "YES" or "NO" answer.
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